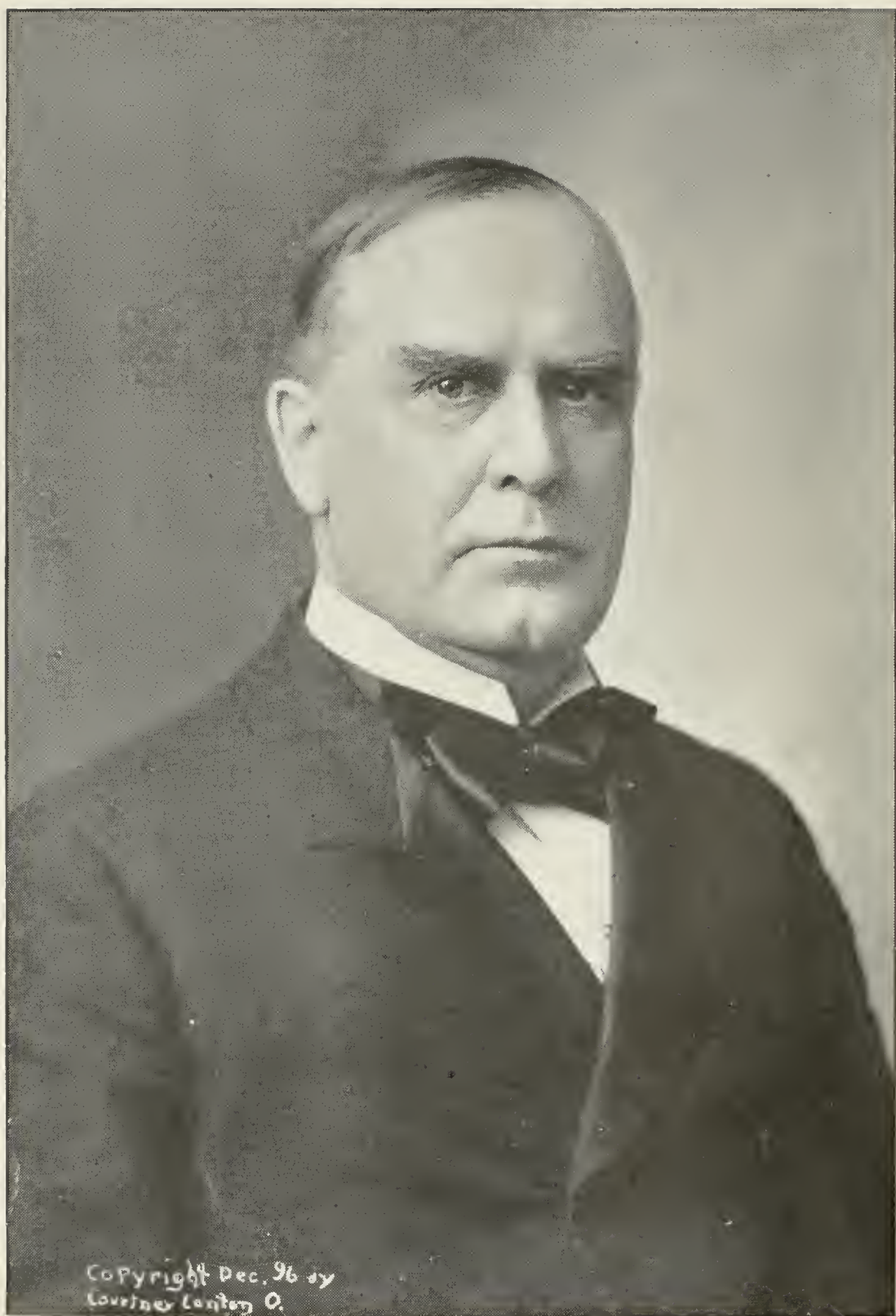








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The Life of
William McKinley

Twenty-fifth President
of the
United States

By

Jane Elliott Snow

Author of "Women of Tennyson"
and "Coates Family History"

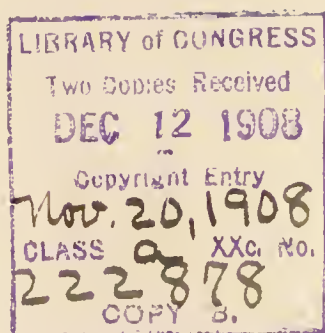


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1908

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1908



To Miss Annie C. Granger

*of the Cleveland Public Library, whose helpful
suggestions aided me in my work, this little
volume is affectionately inscribed.*

The Author

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Preface

My excuse for placing this brief biography of the late President McKinley before the public is that there is a *demand* for just such a work.

While there are several extended biographies and a multitude of articles to which students can refer, the need of a brief account adapted to youth, and suitable for school work in preparation for McKinley Day exercises, still exists; so I have endeavored to relate the main facts in the life of William McKinley, and have selected a few incidents in his life, hoping that they may prove an inspiration to many a boy to emulate that high and noble example.

J. E. S.

Books Consulted

- "Life of William McKinley," by Robert P. Porter.
- "Life of William McKinley," A. K. McClure and Chas. Morris, LL.D.
- "William McKinley," J. A. Shawan.
- Munsey's Magazine, November 1901.
- Memorial Address, John Hay.
-

This book has the approval of the following Cleveland people:

Chas. Orr, Director of Schools.

William Richardson, A.M., Ph. D.

Rev. John Fisher, Superintendent of Children's Industrial School and Home.

Mrs. Elroy M. Avery, Editor National Magazine, D. A. R.

Sarah K. Bolton, author of many books.

Mary S. Bradford, patron of Art and Letters.

A. E. Hyre, Secretary Cleveland Chamber of Industry.

The two McKinley sisters, Mrs. A. R. Duncan and Helen McKinley, also a niece, Mrs. Chas. R. Miller.

William McKinley

(Jan. 29, 1843 — Sept. 14, 1901)

He wore no formidable panoply.

His shield was faith; his breast-plate righteousness.

The brotherhood of man did he confess

By love that thinks no evil — charity.

This quality confers supremacy.

In fortitude, in gentle manliness,

He had been great e'en were his station less;

And yet his outstretched hand met perfidy.

Alas, O Land of Liberty for thee

When dastards seek for victims such as he.

But say not he is dead; His spirit passed

Into a heritage of rest; at last

This boon was gained for which our chieftain sighed.

He is immortal. Say not that he died.

—*Mary E. M. Richardson.*

CHAPTER I

A Retrospect

Late in the afternoon of September 6, 1901, a wave of sorrow swept over this country so intense that words fail to describe its effect upon the people. This was caused by the report wired far and near that President McKinley, while holding a reception in the Temple of Music on the grounds of the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, New York, had received from the hands of an assassin a wound which it was feared would prove mortal.

“Alas for our country, if these things must be!” was the agonized cry that went up from thousands of loyal patriotic hearts.

Within the lifetime of multitudes of people then living, two Presidents, Abraham Lincoln and James A. Garfield, had fallen by the hands of assassins.

And now must the third, one to whom the eyes of the Nation were then devotedly turned, meet with the same cruel fate?

When Abraham Lincoln was stricken

down, the Nation had just emerged from a civil war of four years' duration. The passions engendered by that long struggle had scarcely time to abate.

James A. Garfield came to the presidency amid the throes of bitter partisan strife. Either of these conditions might lead thinking people to fear some dreadful tragedy at the hands of a misguided, brutal avenger.

But at no time in the history of the country did the "dove of peace" seem to hover nearer to the earth than during the summer when the Pan-American Exposition was in progress, and when everything connected with it breathed harmony and joy.

No man ever sat in a high place who was of a more kindly nature or freer from enmity of his fellow men than William McKinley.

Only the day before he received his death wound he had commanded the attention and respect of the whole world by delivering an address in favor of universal peace and harmony.

His whole life was a benediction—a blessing.

CHAPTER II

Ancestry of William McKinley

The question of ancestry does not occupy a very large place in the minds of many people. They are far more interested in what a man is today than in what his father or his grandfather was. And yet, oft times, if these forebears had not been worthy their children would not have become either great or good.

The family of William McKinley came originally from Scotland. The Scotch are among the best people in the world. They possess certain superior traits of character, such as virtue, honesty, truthfulness; and these combined with habits of industry make them always and everywhere good and useful citizens.

Some two or three centuries ago there was a great deal of trouble in Scotland, growing out of religious questions. In America people have been so long accustomed to seeing the members of different churches and religious

creeds living together in peace and harmony that they little realize what dreadful things once happened among men who differed on these questions. There were wars, imprisonments, burnings at the stake, and beheadings were not uncommon.

These were the conditions in Scotland at the time of which I write.

The fact, perhaps, that the Scotch were a people of strong character, ready to fight and even to die for their religious faith, greatly aggravated their troubles, so that the country became a very unsafe place in which to live.

As a result many people left Scotland, preferring exile and peace in a foreign land to war with all its attendant evils at home.

Ireland then afforded a safe refuge for many families, among them being one named McKinley.

In the Emerald Isle the McKinleys lived for many years. Here children lived to become men and women, and here some of them grew old and died.

About the middle of the eighteenth cen-

ture many stories reached Ireland of the prosperity of the British colonies in the New World, and many people sailed away to find homes in that far-away land. Among these emigrants were two brothers named James and William McKinley. William settled in the South, and James in the North—in York county, Pennsylvania.

A son of James named David fought under Washington in the war of the Revolution. David in turn had a son named James who was a soldier in the war of 1812, and also in the Indian wars which came a few years later.

He served under General Harrison and fought at the battle of Tippecanoe.

As this last named James was the grandfather of the late President William McKinley, it will readily be seen that he was of patriotic ancestry, and doubtless the mantle of those ancestors fell upon his shoulders and helped in many ways to make him the noble citizen that he became.

It was while marching with General Harrison to and fro through Ohio that James

McKinley first realized the great possibilities of that state as a future home. Thus it came about that he settled in Crawford county, and his descendants found homes in that vicinity.

CHAPTER III

Birth and Parentage

On the 29th day of January, 1843, in a plain, old-fashioned frame house in Niles, Ohio, a little boy who was destined for a great career was given to his home and country.

This little boy was named after his father, and until the close of the Civil war, when he was brevetted Major by President Lincoln, was known as William McKinley, Jr.

His father was the eldest son of James McKinley, last mentioned in the preceding chapter. He was a pioneer in the iron industry of Ohio, and built about thirty foundries in the eastern counties of that state. This fact possibly had something to do with the son's political policy in after life.

The mother, Nancy Allison, was a farmer's daughter, who, like Priscilla, of whom Longfellow sang, made the

“Humble house and modest apparel of homespun
Beautiful with her beauty,
And rich with the wealth of her being.”

To this woman was given a long life. And she filled that life with deeds of love and usefulness. Her home and family were the objects of her dearest affection and untiring devotion.

Both parents were frugal and industrious, and their home was always one of comfort, if not of luxury. Their children, too, were early trained to habits of thrift and industry. They were also taught to *prize truth and honor* above all things else.

William McKinley was one of a large family. There were six brothers and sisters older than he, all living at the time of his birth. Their names were as follows: David, Anna, James, Mary, Helen, and Sarah. There were also two younger: Abba Celia and Abner. But two of these are now living, Helen and Sarah. Sarah is Mrs. A. J. Duncan of Cleveland, Ohio, and her sister Helen, who is unmarried, lives with her.

When people become famous, old neighbors and friends are wont to relate remarkable incidents in connection with their infancy and childhood.

The newspapers recently gave account of one woman who said she rocked President McKinley when in the cradle, and that even then he was such a "striking" child that she prophesied he would live to be President. But the same has been said of hundreds of bright boys, which only goes to show the grand possibilities within the reach of every bright American youth.

CHAPTER IV

Boyhood

“A boy is a boy and a boy let him be,
For the season of boyhood 's a span;
And the heart that now beats with gladness and glee
Soon will ache with the cares of a man.”

In fancy we can picture the boyhood of William McKinley not different, perhaps, from that of other boys. It is said that he was fond of all healthful outdoor sports and games; and it may be presumed that he played ball, rolled marbles, and tried his skill at flying kites.

In winter when the streams and ponds were frozen over, skating was a favorite pastime. Skates were a luxury in those days, and William McKinley's first pair were home-made; that is, they were made by a blacksmith who lived near by. These skates were shared by himself and two of his schoolmates, and each took his turn skating on them.

When spring came, the boys would go fishing. The two would often get weary

waiting for a bite and throw down their lines and rods and jump into the water for a bath or swim. But William, more patient than they, sat still until he was rewarded with a good string of fish to carry home.

At this time his personal appearance is described by an old resident at Niles as follows: "He was black-haired, grave-faced, but robust, and a manly little chap."

Though fond of sport he was no idler in work, and no dullard at books. His school work even when a boy was so excellent that great things were prophesied of him.

William was the one usually called upon to do chores about the house, or to run errands, "because," said his mother, "he seemed always so pleased to help me."

He seems to have had a gift for making friends even when a boy, for he was a general favorite with his schoolmates. If he excelled them in his studies, there was more of rejoicing than envy in their feelings toward him.

This gift for making friends must have grown with his years and strengthened with

his strength, for no man ever had stronger personal friends than President McKinley. One striking instance of this was the loyalty and devotion of the Hon. Marcus A. Hanna, who in times of ill fortune, as well as good fortune, was ever his fast friend.

Even President McKinley's political opponents liked him personally.

Everything points to the fact that the boy life of William McKinley, Jr., was a happy one. It was

“With books, or work, or healthful play
His first years were passed,
And thus he gave for every day
A good account at last.”

The author recently interviewed Mrs. Duncan in regard to her mother's ways of managing her family. Mrs. Duncan says:

“I never knew my mother to speak a cross word, but she had a way of speaking so that the children knew they must mind. She ruled by love and not by fear.

“My mother was a devout woman, and if anything troubled her she took it to the Lord in prayer.

“She believed in regular hours for the children, and until they were eight or ten years old they went to bed by seven o’clock in the evening.

“The children also had regular hours for study through their school years. One hour in the morning was usually devoted to study, besides some time each evening.

“We also had a very pretty custom which continued for many years, and that was, each evening we all gathered in the family sitting-room and spent one hour reading aloud from some good book. We each took our turn reading aloud.

“Every child was taught some useful work. It was my duty after each meal to carry the silver from the dining-room table to the kitchen. We never kept more than one servant, and there was a large family and much to do. On Saturday some extra work was planned for each of us.”

“What were the duties of your brother William on those days?” I asked.

“He usually would cut or saw wood, prepare kindlings for the coming week, or do

anything in the way of light work that was needed.

“My brother was *always* thoughtful for his mother and sisters. When a little boy he was willing to help them, and through life he studied their comfort and happiness.”

CHAPTER V

School Life

After passing through the grammar and high schools at Niles, William McKinley moved with his parents to Poland, a town a few miles distant, where there was an academy, which he at once entered.

He was a hard student, with a natural taste for argument and oratory, and he always took advantage of the literary clubs where he lived.

He was at one time president of the Edward Everett Society, a literary club at Poland.

The part he took in the debates at these clubs helped him in after life to discuss readily, and without notes, questions of national importance, before large public audiences.

So thorough was he in his studies that at the age of sixteen he was able to enter, as junior, Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania, two years of college work having

been completed in the high school and academy.

Poor health soon obliged him to abandon his studies and to return home.

The reader can possibly imagine the youthful William spending the few weeks of his convalescence in rambles about his native town, and in visits to his cousins and near friends. They can readily imagine, too, that he was everywhere welcome because he was so cheerful, genial and intelligent.

The McKinley families were very fond of one another. They delighted in being together, and such days as Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special anniversaries were spent by them all in some one of their homes. Such customs are indeed beautiful, and can but exert a helpful influence over those who participate in them.

On regaining his health William McKinley looked about for some occupation that would enable him to be at least self-supporting.

School teaching in those days was a favorite pursuit of young men of education and push, and he was soon thus employed.

His first school was near Poland, with a salary of twenty-five dollars per month, and he boarded round in the families of his pupils.

He was thus occupied when Fort Sumter was fired upon and Lincoln issued his first call for volunteers.

From what has been said of William McKinley's school life it will be seen that he diligently improved every opportunity for an education. His home life was a great help to him in this respect. His family believed in education, and the parents moved to Poland that all the children might have the superior advantages there offered them.

William McKinley, Sr., was a broad-minded, well-read man, and he always kept his family well supplied with good books and magazines. As these accumulated and were read they were stored in the garret, and as a result the garret became a favorite resort for the youthful William, especially on the eve of some debate in which he was to take part.

It was no uncommon occurrence for the

children to inquire on their return from school, "Where is William?" and for their mother to reply, "He is up in the garret, I think, looking over those old books; you know he takes part in the debate tomorrow." His father's good memory was often a great help in his lyceum work, for he could tell him just to what book or magazine to refer for a certain subject.

As William McKinley, Jr., grew older he became more and more impressed with the importance of an education, and no man perhaps ever lived who prized more highly our public school system than he.

In one of his addresses given later in life he said that the open schoolhouse, free to all, was better than garrisons and guns, and fleets and forts.

He also said that no child should feel bad if he is not so well clad as his more fortunate schoolmates. That the poor and shabbily dressed boy with clean face and clear head who takes advantage of the public schools will win his way against all opposition; that what one gains with his conscience, and brain

and mind, no one can take from him; that the time to acquire the rudiments of an education is when one is young; that no man learns to spell after he is forty; and that only a limited few learn to read and write after that age; that an education is more highly to be prized than earthly crowns, or riches quickly won by some fortunate speculation.

When William McKinley was ten years old he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he retained his membership in that church through life. In his youth he was a regular attendant at Sunday-school and Bible classes. Indeed, he was a great Bible student always, and it was noticeable that no political campaign was ever so absorbing nor any cares of state so heavy as to make him forget to go to church when the proper time came.

His example in this respect was remarkable. He made no display about going to church; he *simply* went. His example was felt for good by his boyhood friends, by his political friends, by his family, and by all his immediate associates. His exemplary life,

and his beautiful Christian death, have without question done more to place the whole Christian church in a favorable light than scores of most able sermons could possibly do.

CHAPTER VI

Soldier Life

William McKinley enlisted in June, 1861, in the Twenty-third regiment of Ohio Volunteers for the three-years' service. He was mustered in by General Fremont, who was favorably impressed with the young man's appearance, and made him very happy by personal examination and speaking to him in a kindly, encouraging way.

He enlisted as a private soldier and so served for ten months. During these months, he, with his fellow soldiers, experienced some fighting and suffered great hardships. The field of their operations was the mountain regions of eastern Kentucky and western Virginia. They were exposed for weeks to almost incessant rains and often suffered for want of food.

Of William McKinley's life as a soldier, Ex-President Hayes once said: "When battles were to be fought or service was to be

performed in warlike things, he always took his place. The night was never too dark; the weather never too cold; there was no sleet or storm or hail or snow or rain that was in the way of his prompt and efficient performance of every duty."

On the 19th of April, 1862, he was appointed commissary sergeant, and the following September, for thoughtful and kindly action in the battle of Antietam, he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. This incident is described by General J. L. Botsford, an eye witness, as follows:

"It was nearly dark when we heard tremendous cheering from the left of our regiment. As we had been having heavy fighting up to this time, our division commander, General Seaman, sent me to find out the cause. I very soon learned that the cheering was for McKinley and his hot coffee. You can readily imagine the rousing welcome he received from both officers and men.

"When you consider the fact of his leaving his post of security and driving into the midst of a bloody battle with a team of mules,

it needs no words of mine to show the character and determination of McKinley, a boy not twenty years of age. McKinley loaded two wagons with supplies, but the mules of one wagon were disabled. He was ordered back again and again, but he pushed right on."

Ex-President Hayes also said: "That battle (Antietam) began at daylight. Before daylight men were in the ranks preparing for it. Without breakfast, without coffee, they went into the fight, which continued until after the sun had set. Early in the afternoon, naturally enough, with the exertion required of the men, they were famished and thirsty and to some extent broken in spirit. The commissary department of that brigade was under Sergeant McKinley's administration and personal supervision. From his hands every man in the regiment was served with hot coffee and warm meats, a thing that had never occurred under similar circumstances in any other army in the world. He passed under fire and delivered with his own hands these things so essential

for the men whom he was seeking to relieve.”

The years have but intensified the gratitude of the people for this act, and a monument in honor of it has been placed on the battle-ground of Antietam.

At the time of the defeat at Kernstown he wished to spare the feelings of an aged Quaker lady, who stood weeping at her gate in Winchester, as the Union soldiers passed in hasty retreat through the town. It was evident that her grief was for them, yet she did not dare to manifest it too plainly on account of those about her. The young soldier at once divined the situation and reining his horse near her said in a low voice: “Don’t worry, my dear madam, we are not hurt so much as it seems, and we shall be back here again in a few days.”

William McKinley continued in active service throughout the war; he was in more than thirty battles and skirmishes, and was on the staffs of Generals Hayes, Hancock, Cook and Carroll, respectively. For gallant conduct at the battle of Kernstown, July 24,

1864, he was promoted to the rank of captain, and at the close of the war was, as already stated, appointed brevet major by President Lincoln.

The commission read: "For gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Opequam, Cedar Creek, and Fisher's Hill.—A. Lincoln."

CHAPTER VII

Choosing a Profession

“Let a man then know his own worth.”
—*Emerson.*

When the war closed, Major McKinley was but twenty-two years old. He had given four of the best years of his life to the service of his country and had made a brilliant record as a patriot and soldier. But peace had come and it was now necessary for him to prepare himself for some useful vocation whereby he could gain a livelihood.

He chose the profession of law, and entered as student the office of Judge Chas. E. Glidden, of Trumbull county, where he remained two years. Thence he went to the law school at Albany, New York, from which he graduated in 1867.

In his legal studies, as well as those in the high school and college of an earlier day, he was greatly aided by his sister Anna, who was for many years a teacher. On this account, perhaps, she felt more keenly the

importance of an education than the other members of the family. Anna encouraged him in every way to continue his studies until success crowned his efforts.

His devoted sister ever retained a warm place in his heart. Indeed it was owing to the fact of her teaching in the public schools of Canton, Ohio, that he chose that city as a field for the practice of his profession.

From this time Canton was his home until his death. His official residence in Washington was only a passing incident in his life.

With William McKinley's natural taste for public speaking he easily drifted into politics.

His first public speech was at New Berlin, Ohio. He was then twenty-four years old. His rostrum was a dry-goods box, and it stood near the steps of a tavern.

Michael Bitzer, chairman of the meeting, thus described the speaker many years later:

“For nearly an hour he talked as never a young man in Stark county had talked before. His strong personality and his kindly manner were noticed by the people of New

Berlin. His hearty hand-shake, his pleasant smile, were in evidence and only waiting for opportunity and strength of purpose to develop them."

This was in 1867, and two years later he had become well known as a rising young lawyer and speaker of thoughtful force.

In 1869 he was elected to the office of district prosecuting attorney of Stark county, which he held for two years. This was not a lucrative position, but it helped him in his legal profession and prepared the way for something better.

During the years immediately following he applied himself diligently to his profession. It was during these years, too, that his political principles became well defined.

Though firm in his own convictions as to what was right, he was ever thoughtful for the feelings of his political opponents, as the following will show.

Upon one occasion he was to address a political meeting in the town of K—, in Northern Ohio.

A gentleman of the opposite party who

was prominent in the town, and who thought that Mr. McKinley could speak well on only one subject, the tariff, proposed that instead of a speech there should be a joint debate between himself and the gifted orator on the Republican side. To this the management consented provided Mr. McKinley would have no objections. On the latter's arrival he found a full house, and much enthusiasm over his presence. When informed of the proposition for a debate he was not at all disconcerted, but replied in his happiest manner: "Certainly, certainly, only let the gentleman speak first, and I will follow."

The "gentleman" spoke first and at great length, and Mr. McKinley listened attentively through it all. At the close he was at once introduced to the audience, which greeted him with a succession of rousing cheers. He first paid the speaker a compliment for the ability with which he presented his arguments, and then proceeded to answer them one by one in such a masterly manner that even his political opponents were delighted.

It is needless to add that Mr. McKinley was the hero of the evening, and the "opponents" as well as friends were convinced that he could speak well upon other subjects than the tariff.

CHAPTER VIII

Political Principles

William McKinley believed in protecting American labor. He believed that the more things the people of America could make the better it would be for the country.

He said that if the people could make *everything* they need and not buy anything in foreign markets there would be no idle men in the country, and every man would be well paid for his labor.

Not every one believed as he did, and he delivered a great many speeches and addresses in his endeavor to convince the people that he was right.

He made a thorough study of labor conditions in this country and in other countries. He knew just what a man would be paid for doing a piece of work in this country, and what he would be paid for doing the same piece of work in England, or France, or Germany, or Russia.

As a result he became the great champion of protection for American industries.

Partly because he so believed and so taught he was seven times chosen representative in Congress, twice made governor of Ohio, and twice elected president of the United States.

He believed not only in the protection of American industries, but in sound money as well. In one of his speeches he said: "My fellow citizens, there is one thing which this country cannot afford to trifle with, and that is its currency, its measure of value, the money which passes among the people in return for their land or for their toil.

"The money of this country should be as national as its flag, as sacred as the national honor, and as sound as the government itself.

"That is the kind of money which it is the paramount interest of every citizen of this country, no matter to what political party he may belong, to strive to maintain and continue."

He believed, too, in the sacredness of the ballot box. The following is what he says

of it: "We cannot afford to break down a single safeguard which has been thrown around the ballot box. Every guaranty must be kept and maintained. Fair-minded people everywhere are interested in honest elections. It is not a partisan measure; it falls alike on all political parties. The law recognizes no political creed, and those who execute it should carefully obey its letter and spirit. It protects Democrats and Republicans and men of all parties alike."

While William McKinley believed in a protective tariff and championed American industries, he also favored reciprocity—a mutual exchange of commodities between nations. Of this he says: "We should sell wherever we can, and buy wherever the buying will enlarge our sales and productions and thereby make a greater demand for home labor."

"Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times."

CHAPTER IX

Marriage — Domestic Life

On January 25, 1871, William McKinley was united in marriage to Miss Ida M., daughter of James A. Saxton, a man of wealth and prominence in Canton.

The bride was a lady of rare gifts of mind and heart. She had been educated in the best private schools of the country and had enjoyed the advantages of extensive travel in Europe.

But even with these advantages, that she might be able to support herself, should occasion require, she entered her father's bank and served for a time as cashier. This position she filled most acceptably. Meantime she was active in Sunday-school work and in that capacity was able to exercise a lasting influence for good over her pupils.

It is not always that successful public men have a happy home life, but that of Mr. and Mrs. McKinley was ideal.

Two children came to bless their home,

but only for a short time. This was indeed a great sorrow to them, for both were fond of children, and through their public career it was no uncommon thing for them to stop their carriage to talk with some child in the street, no matter how poorly that child might be clad.

With the loss of the children came poor health to Mrs. McKinley, and from that time on she was an invalid. How she was cared for by her husband is a story well known to the world. Says one writer: "The devotion of this man and woman was a theme of comment for many years. On the part of Mrs. McKinley there was a constant, tender and adoring love for the man who won such great success. On his part there was a lifetime of unselfish devotion to a gentle, feeble invalid."

In the agony of his death wound his thought was for her. "Be careful about my wife, do not tell her," he said.

Not only was Mr. McKinley a devoted husband but he was a dutiful son, and the aged mother shared with the wife his tenderest solicitude.

During the years of his political triumphs it was to the wife and the mother that he first imparted the glad news of his success. And while burdened with the cares of state, President McKinley never forgot the loved ones at home.

On receiving news of his mother's last illness he repaired at once to her bedside and there remained until all was over.

In the character of this great man were happily blended the gentler traits with those of strength, firmness and decision.

The following from a newspaper clipping shows what Mrs. McKinley was in those happy days when her husband was the most distinguished man in the country:

"She delights to have children call upon her, and takes especial pleasure in placing her arms about them and chatting in a charming, yet natural way. Next to her love for children is her fondness for flowers. Her favorites are pink roses, and it is seldom that she does not have them near her. She has no pets, probably because of her infirmity, and because she has had but few years of real

home life. Music delights her, but she does not play, although in her girlhood days she both played and sang. Art and statuary attract her and she has made a good collection."

The last few years of Mrs. McKinley's life were spent crocheting slippers, which she gave to her friends and to hospitals. It was said that more than three thousand pairs of slippers had been made by her to cover the weary feet of unfortunates.

Mrs. McKinley's remains now rest beside those of her husband, in the family tomb at Canton.

CHAPTER X

Member of Congress

In 1876 Major McKinley was elected member of the Forty-fifth Congress. The district he represented was composed of Stark and adjoining counties. In that Congress were the following Ohio men who had already gained a national reputation: James A. Garfield and Thomas Ewing were in the House, and John Sherman and Allen G. Thurman in the Senate.

Rutherford B. Hayes was President. Such was the stress of the times that this Congress was called in extra session October, 1877.

The coinage of the silver dollar and tariff legislation were the absorbing problems that were then before the people, and the solution of these problems was among the chief duties of Congress.

Major McKinley soon made a record on both of these questions. He stood for sound money and protection of American industries. His first speech bearing directly on

the tariff attracted universal attention and marked the beginning of his wonderful popularity as a statesman. With the exception of two years, 1882 and 1883, Major McKinley was in Congress from 1876 to 1890; during these years he took an active part in all the great questions that were before the people—the tariff, the coinage of silver, the sacredness of the ballot, and other vital questions.

He served on many important committees. In his first term he was on the committee for the revision of the laws of the United States.

In the second term he was placed on a committee which had to consider matters relating to the federal courts of justice.

In 1880 he succeeded James A. Garfield as member of the Committee on Ways and Means. This position he held until the close of his congressional career.

While chairman of this committee he gave to the Nation what is known as the McKinley Tariff Bill. Of this important work he says: "I was chairman of the committee and performed my duties as best I could. Some of

the strongest men in Congress were on the committee, and the eight of us heard everybody, considered everything, and made up the best tariff law we knew how to frame."

Other important committees on which he served were, one to inspect the United States Military Academy, and one to conduct the Garfield memorial service. Of the latter he was chairman.

James G. Blaine in his "Twenty Years in Congress" says: "While in Congress, McKinley was a thorough student of industrial questions, and soon became known as one of the ablest defenders of the doctrine of protection." He also says: "He looked well to the interests of the people whom he represented."

CHAPTER XI

Governor of Ohio

From the halls of Congress Major McKinley was soon to be called to the office of chief magistrate of the state of Ohio. He was elected to that position in the fall of 1891, and after serving one term was re-elected in 1893.

The four years during which he was Governor of Ohio were years of great financial depression and labor troubles throughout the country. Fifteen times it became necessary to call out the state troops to preserve order. But it was noticeable through this trying period that while order was maintained and property protected, no harsh measures were used toward either party to the disputes. These happy results were largely due to the management of Governor McKinley. He was impartial in his administration, and to the extent of his authority carefully guarded the interests of all classes of the people.

He was interested in the management of all public institutions, such as schools and hospitals for the deaf and dumb, feeble-minded, and insane, also the penal and reformatory institutions. These he visited in person and did what he could to improve their condition.

He urged upon the Legislature the importance of tax reform, of good roads, of improving the canal system, and other matters of public interest.

He favored the eight-hour labor system, and arbitration as a means of settling disputes between the employers and the employed, and it was largely due to him that the State Board of Arbitration was established in Ohio.

Governor McKinley was instrumental in having placed upon the statute books of Ohio some excellent laws relating to accidents and injuries occurring to persons employed in dangerous situations.

If as a soldier William McKinley was thoughtful for his fellow soldiers at Antietam, as Governor of Ohio he was equally

thoughtful for the suffering of the citizens of the state over which he presided.

At one time there was great destitution among the miners of the Hocking Valley. It was midnight when he received news that many families were in danger of starvation. By sunrise a carload of provisions was on the way to their relief.

Says Charles Morris, LL. D.: "A distinctive feature of the McKinley administration was the absence of red tape and needless formalities. In his method of transacting business the Governor was concise and correct, and in his intercourse with the people, though dignified, he was always approachable."

CHAPTER XII

President of the United States

The services William McKinley rendered his country while in Congress and as Governor of Ohio were fully appreciated by the American people, and it seemed fitting in return for these services that they should bestow upon him the greatest honor within their power—that of electing him to the position of chief executive of the Nation.

In presenting his name for that office at the St. Louis convention, in 1896, Senator Foraker said: “No other name so absolutely commands all hearts; that is because all American people know him, believe in him, love him. They know that he is an American of Americans; they know that he is just and able and brave, and they want him for President.”

The campaign that followed was a most exciting one. The McKinley home became a veritable Mecca for the thousands of enthusiastic admirers of the future President.

The crowds did not always enter the house, but gathered about it and often overflowed the grounds.

The lawn was soon denuded of its verdure, while bits of shrubbery and boards from the fence were carried away as souvenirs. A buckeye-tree in the back yard proved a mine of wealth to the relic seekers, and happy was he who could obtain a genuine specimen of its product.

It was within the period of his first presidential campaign that Mr. McKinley made what were called his "porch speeches." They were so named because he uttered them while standing on the porch of his home. Eager throngs listened to those speeches, which were many and varied and included all the great issues that were then before the people.

A near relative and friend of Mr. McKinley, who resided at Canton, and who was frequently present at those meetings, says that it was remarkable how long he could hold the attention of his audience without resorting to amusing anecdotes or witty say-

ings; that while among his home friends and in private social circles he was always lively and frequently witty, those traits were rarely shown on the public rostrum.

Possibly the themes he had to deal with had much to do with his manner of presenting them. They were such as required careful thought and logical reasoning to give them force and send them home to the hearts of his hearers. But whatever the cause, his manner of treating prosy themes was both interesting and effective. Nor was his chain of reasoning ever broken by any unusual disturbance while speaking. The following instance well illustrates this, as also his love and thoughtfulness for children.

Upon the occasion of a notable gathering at his home and while in the midst of a speech, a little girl from the neighborhood attempted to make her way to the scene of action by climbing the fence. She was caught by her clothing and, unable to extricate herself, cried for help. No one in the audience paid any attention to her, but as soon as her cries reached the ears of Mr. McKinley he

stopped speaking and went to her rescue. The terrified child was quickly soothed and placed in a seat on the porch near the speaker. The latter at once took up the thread of his discourse where he left off and proceeded as though nothing had happened.

At the election, November, 1896, over seven million voters testified by their ballots that William McKinley was their choice for President, and on March 4, 1897, he assumed the duties of that exalted office.

It was a time of great business depression. Factories were closed and thousands of laborers were idle.

The President at once convened Congress in extra session. This body, acting upon his wise suggestions, passed laws which soon led to more hopeful conditions throughout the country. The wheels of industry were set in motion, commerce revived, and the Nation entered upon a career of prosperity unsurpassed in its previous history.

Aside from the revival of the great industries the principal events of President McKinley's first administration were the annex-

ation of Hawaii, and the Spanish-American war.

The details of the war will not be given here, but its results led to the supervision of our government over Porto Rico, Cuba, the Ladrones and the Philippines; and to the annexation or possession of all but Cuba.

Another excellent result was a more harmonious feeling between the two sections of the country, the North and the South. No sooner did the cloud of a foreign war hang over the Nation than all felt that they had but one country, one flag.

Aside from Abraham Lincoln few Presidents have had a more trying administration than William McKinley during his first term. The business depression, the money question, the Spanish-American war, the Boxer troubles in China, and the adjustment of our island possessions, all gave rise to bitter partisan feeling, and required the exercise of great tact and wisdom on the part of the chief executive.

During these years of heavy official burdens he ever continued the same patient,

kindly man—sympathetic, obliging, self-sacrificing.

But while possessed to an eminent degree of these beautiful traits of character, it is noticeable that in all his dealings with foreign nations he was ever firm in upholding the dignity and honor of the country over which he presided.

In the peace negotiations between this country and Spain the tact and wisdom displayed by the President did much to allay the bitterness between the two countries, and in the settlement of the Boxer troubles in China, respect for this Government was greatly enhanced among the world's powers by the judicious course of President McKinley.

Such was the confidence of the people in his administration that his name was the second time presented as candidate for the high office he had so admirably filled. At the Philadelphia convention in June, 1900, amid the greatest enthusiasm he was unanimously chosen the national standard bearer of his country for another term.

At the election which followed he received over one hundred thousand more votes than were given him four years before.

When William McKinley took the oath of office for the second time, March 4, 1901, the country was at peace, and the bow of promise gave no indications of future disaster.

Soon after his second inauguration, in company with his wife and several high officials, the President started on a western tour. But on reaching San Francisco, the serious illness of Mrs. McKinley caused its abandonment and the party returned to Washington by the shortest route. The tour, so far as accomplished, proved one continuous ovation for the President.

In all the large cities and more important towns where he stopped the people turned out *en masse* and greeted him with the greatest delight and enthusiasm. The speeches he made on these occasions are considered not only valuable as state papers, but as literary productions as well.

The following interesting incidents are

related of William McKinley while President:

At the close of the first presidential inauguration crowds of people forced their way to the new President to shake hands with him, or to ask some favor of him; while the crowd, composed mostly of men, surged about him, he saw in the distance an old lady evidently burdened with some weight of sorrow. Waving his hand he said, "Gentlemen, excuse me, but I see back there in the crowd an old lady evidently in trouble and I must go to her."

He at once pressed his way through the crowd to the woman's side, and the smiles on her face soon bore evidence of the magical effects of his kindly words.

The red carnation was Mr. McKinley's favorite flower, and he always wore one fastened in the lapel of his coat. During the years of his presidency a bouquet of these flowers usually stood on a table in the public reception-room of the White House. If a visitor expressed a desire for one of them, the President at once exchanged the one he

wore for a fresh one from the vase, and gave the first to his guest. The fact that he wore the flower greatly enhanced its value as a gift.

CHAPTER XIII

President's Day

The principal event in this country in the summer of 1901 was the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo. Its objects were to strengthen relations already existing and to further the interests of trade and commerce among the nations represented.

From the first, President McKinley had been an earnest promoter of the enterprise, and it seemed fitting that a President's Day should have a prominent place on the program of events to occur on the exposition grounds.

On the day appointed, September 5, the sky was cloudless, the birds sang, and cooling breezes rendered the air delightful. Oh, who could have foreseen the dreadful tragedy that was so soon to cloud all in gloom!

In honor of the occasion the city was decked in gala attire. "Welcome!" "Welcome!" were the words upon hundreds of flags and banners, fluttering in the breeze.

Mounted policemen, members of the Signal Corps, and United States marines escorted the President to the exposition grounds. At the entrance he was greeted with a salute of twenty-one guns, and while passing thence to the platform which had been erected on the esplanade, and from which he was to speak, the air rang with cheers from the vast concourse of people who had assembled to greet the Nation's chief.

Seated near the platform were many distinguished people, representatives of the various American governments.

When President Milburn of the Exposition rose to introduce the exalted guest the vast audience was for a moment silenced. But no sooner did he utter the words, "The President," than the welkin resounded with prolonged cheering. When silence was restored, President McKinley gave utterance to an address which is regarded as the ablest of all he had ever given; an address which has had much to do with shaping the Nation's policy since, and which will doubtless continue to influence its future course.

He spoke of the pleasure he felt at being again in the city of Buffalo, where he had been so hospitably entertained and so cordially received by the people.

He extended words of greeting to the representatives of foreign governments present, and congratulated the managers of the Exposition on the success of their work.

He spoke of the benefits resulting from expositions, financial, social and educational.

He dwelt upon the growth, prosperity and greatness of our own country, and the necessity of maintaining such conditions as would contribute to its future advancement; and declared that while competition in trade and business is natural and proper, men should not be enemies in business. The meaning of all of which is that they should "live and let live."

He especially emphasized the importance of peaceful trade relations with all nations. "Reciprocity" wherever possible, was the keynote of this great speech.

He favored the settling of international disputes by arbitration.

He pleaded for a more adequate steamship service, for an Isthmian canal, and a Pacific cable.

He paid a high tribute to the late James G. Blaine, and closed with the petition that God would grant to our own, to all neighboring nations, and all the peoples of the earth, "prosperity, happiness and peace."

This, his last and greatest speech, was most favorably received everywhere. The leading newspapers of the country, without regard to party, commented favorably upon it, and it has had much to do with molding the Nation's destiny since.

CHAPTER XIV

A Nation's Loss

On the afternoon of the following day, September 6, the President held a public reception in the Temple of Music. While receiving he stood on the platform in front of the great organ, on the east side of the building.

President Milburn, of the Exposition, was at his right and was introducing the people. Secretary Cortelyou was at his left, and all about him were secret service officers, who were there for the purpose of preventing any disaster, but who little dreamed that an assassin was to approach in the guise of a friend.

The building was crowded, and outside were hundreds of people waiting to take the hand of their beloved President.

In the midst of all this joy and gladness a pistol shot was distinctly heard above the hum of voices which filled the room. There was a moment of silence, and then it was

discovered that it was President McKinley at whom the shot was fired.

Immediately there was great commotion, and had it not been for the agonized plea, "Let no one hurt him!" the assassin might have met a violent death then and there.

The stricken President was at once taken to the Exposition hospital and his wound examined. It was thought to be dangerous, yet there was hope. Thence a few hours later he was removed to the Milburn home, where he had been a guest of honor since coming to the city. Here sorrowing friends hastily gathered from all parts of the country, and here the stricken one, beloved by an entire nation, honored by the intelligent and good all over the world, lingered until the morning of the 14th, when he passed peacefully away. His last words were, "It is God's way. His will be done."

During those days of watchfulness and anxiety everything that love could prompt and skill devise was done with the hope that the exalted sufferer might be restored to health.

So great were the hopes of the Nation that at every favorable turn of the patient's symptoms there was rejoicing throughout the country.

So encouraging were the physicians' reports on Thursday, the 12th, that special services of praise and thanksgiving were held in many places.

But the love of friends, the skill of physicians, and the prayers of an entire nation, were not sufficient to prolong the life of William McKinley. His work was finished. He entered upon his final rest.

Among the mourners, who during those sad days gathered at the Milburn home, none were more sincere than Vice-President Roosevelt. And when the burden of government fell upon him he gave his word that, as far as lay within his power, he would fulfill the wishes of him whose voice was now silenced forever.

President Roosevelt kept his promise and, in so doing, caused the Nation's hopes to be realized. All the people had reason to be

thankful that so good a man occupied the place made vacant by the tragical death of William McKinley.

CHAPTER XV

Obsequies

Elaborate and appropriate obsequies were held, beginning Sunday, September 15, at the Milburn home in Buffalo, with a simple service of prayer, Scripture reading and the singing of the President's favorite hymns, "Lead, Kindly Light," and "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

The casket was richly draped in black, and bore this simple inscription on a silver plate:

WILLIAM McKINLEY

Born January 29, 1843

Died September 14, 1901

Over the foot of the casket an American flag hung in graceful folds, while beautiful flowers in rich profusion, the gift of people from all parts of the country, bore testimony of love.

At the close of these services, the body was taken to the city hall, where it lay in state and was viewed by thousands of sympathetic mourning people.

On the following morning it was conveyed to Washington, D. C., where services of a more national character were held.

It is estimated that while on the way from Buffalo to the national capital, one million people looked upon the coffin in which were inclosed the mortal remains of their beloved President.

Schools were dismissed, farms and shops were deserted, and the people gathered at all available points along the line on the railroad over which the funeral cortège passed.

Flags draped in mourning hung at half mast from every home and store along the route. These, with the faces of the people, bore evidence of the universal mourning into which the Nation was plunged.

The services at Washington were held beneath the dome of the Capitol, and were attended by high state officials, representatives of foreign governments, and members of various civic orders. Bishop Andrews, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, pronounced the eulogium. At the close of the services, sixty thousands people passed in mournful

file by the casket, and thousands more stood reverently waiting when the doors were closed.

The last and most impressive services were at the home city, Canton, Ohio. From Washington to this point, twenty cars were required to transport the funeral party.

Along the route the same scenes were enacted as had been witnessed between Buffalo and Washington. Though the journey occurred in the night, at every station crowds were gathered to pay their last tribute to the honored dead.

On arriving in Canton the body was taken to the court-house, where it lay in state until evening. Here it was again looked upon by thousands of people who were mourners indeed. From the court-house it was removed to his home, where it remained until the final services, which were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which President McKinley had been long a member.

His pew, draped in mourning, was vacant. Aside from that, every available place in the church was occupied.

There were present the same official representatives as at Washington, and also the same company of relatives; but here old friends and neighbors were given the place of honor in the company of distinguished mourners.

Outside the church, sorrowful throngs crowded the grounds, the streets, and neighboring lawns. The city was one vast mass of mourning humanity that had come from all parts of the state, all parts of the country, to do honor to him who was to be laid away out of their sight forever.

At the close of the services at the church the body of President William McKinley was conveyed to Westlawn Cemetery, between two solid files of men, women and children, many of whom manifested their grief by convulsive sobbing and weeping.

The gray stone vault that was to receive the honored dead was literally banked with masses of beautiful flowers.

At the entrance the procession paused while Bishop Joyce read the burial service

and eight bugles sounded the notes of the soldier's requiem for the dead.

And now occurred one of the most singular incidents ever recorded in the world's history.

By request of President Roosevelt, that day, September 19, was set apart as one of universal mourning. Wherever our flag waved it was draped in black, and hung at half mast. In all the large cities of the Union impressive services were held at the same hour as those at Canton.

At the moment when the casket was being lowered into the tomb there was a solemn hush throughout the country. Telegraph lines were silenced. Street cars stopped running, and for five minutes nearly all human activities ceased.

Not only was there mourning in this country, but it extended throughout the world.

In many of the great cathedrals of the Old World, in London, Paris, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, impressive religious services were held. All denominations, Roman Catholics, Protestants and Jews joined in these services, thus showing that the religion of

him whom they honored was of that divine type which alone can lead men in the path of duty and righteousness.

The remains of President McKinley lie in the cemetery at Canton, where a beautiful monument has been erected to his memory. The place is annually visited by thousands of people, who come to pay their respects to one who devoted his life to the service of his country.

CHAPTER XVI

Extracts from Public Speeches

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln had sublime faith in the people. He walked with and among them. . . . Even amid the vicissitudes of war he concealed little from public review and inspection. In all he did he invited rather than evaded examination and criticism. He submitted his plans and purposes, as far as practicable, to public consideration with perfect frankness and sincerity. There was such homely simplicity in his character that it could not be hedged in by pomp of place nor the ceremonials of high official station. He was so accessible to the public that he seemed to take the people into his confidence. Here perhaps was one secret of his power. . . . His patience was almost superhuman. And who will say that he was mistaken in his treatment of the thousands who thronged continually about him?

A COMPARISON OF WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN

The greatest names in American history are Washington and Lincoln. . . . These illustrious men achieved grander results for mankind within a single century from 1775 to 1865, than any other men ever accomplished in all the years since first the flight of time began. Washington drew his sword not for a change of rulers upon an established throne, but to establish a new government which should acknowledge no throne but the tribune of the people. Lincoln accepted war to save the Union, the safeguard of our liberties. . . . Each lived to accomplish his appointed task. Each received the unbounded gratitude of the people of his time and each is held in great and ever increasing reverence by posterity.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

His private life was beautiful in its purity and simplicity. No irreverent oath passed his lips, and his conversation was as chaste and unaffected as that of simple childhood.

His relations with his family were tender and affectionate, and with officers, cordial and considerate. He was a typical American, free from ostentation, easily approached. His whole life gave proof of his nationality—a man from the people, of the people, for the people, and never above the people.

JAMES A. GARFIELD

His broad and benevolent nature made him a friend of all mankind. He loved the young men of the country and drew them to him by the thoughtful concern with which he regarded them. As a citizen he loved his country and her institutions, and was proud of her progress and prosperity. As a scholar and man of letters he took high rank. As an orator, he was exceptionally strong and gifted. As a soldier he stood abreast with the bravest and best of the citizen soldiery of the Republic. As a legislator, his most enduring testimonial will be found in the records of Congress and the statutes of his country. As President, he displayed moderation and wisdom with executive ability

which gave the highest assurance of a most successful and illustrious administration.

JOHN A. LOGAN

His creed was his country. Patriotism the sole plank of his platform. . . . He was every inch a soldier, dashing and fearless. . . . Wherever the fire was the hottest, wherever the line was most exposed, wherever the danger was most imminent, John A. Logan was always to be found. . . . His patriotic words penetrated the hearts and homes of the people of twenty-two States, arousing a deep and profound love for country and a strong and lasting sentiment for the cause of the Union. He advocated the most generous bounties and pensions for the brave men who risked all for their country. . . . The old soldiers will miss him. . . . The old veterans have lost their steady friend. The Congress of the United States has lost one of its ablest counselors, the Republican party one of its confessed leaders, the country one of its noble defenders.

EDUCATION

The young men and women who succeed nowadays must succeed because of superior knowledge. This is an age of exactness. What you know you must know well and thoroughly, and to reach prominence you must know it better than anybody else. It will not do to know a thing half any longer. . . . The only way to acquire knowledge is to labor. There is no substitute for it. The best time to get it is when you are young. To use a homely but expressive phrase, "You must hoe your own row." Don't try to master too many things. A few things of which you are thoroughly master give you better equipment for life's struggles than a whole arsenal of half-mastered, half-matured things.

No college can make you great, no university can make you successful. These achievements, and it is a common experience of mankind, depend upon yourself.

We cannot have too much of an education if it be of the right kind, and if it be rightly

applied it is of estimable value to the citizen in every walk and branch of life.

LABOR

We owe something to the care, the elevation, the dignity and the education of labor. We owe something to the working men and the families of the working men throughout the United States, who constitute the large body of our population, and this bill favoring the eight-hour law is a step in the right direction.

Nowhere in the world has the cause of labor, its rights and its dignities, been more triumphant than in the United States. Labor here is free and independent; slave labor has been abolished, and the workman makes his own contracts and enters only into voluntary employment. He is his own master; no man owns his laborer. He is respected and honored in every walk of life, he has by merit forged his way to the very front rank in mechanism, and his trophies are seen on every hand.

American workmen are as a body the most ingenious and intelligent of the world.

THE HOME

If I were called upon to say what in my opinion constitutes the strength and security and integrity of the Government, I would say the American home. It lies at the very beginning and foundation of a pure national life. The good home makes the good citizen, and the good citizen makes wholesome public sentiment. Good government follows.

If the home life is pure, sincere and good, the child is usually well prepared to receive all the advantages and inspirations of a more advanced education. The American home, where honesty, sobriety and truth preside, and a simple every-day virtue without pomp and ostentation is practiced, is the nursery of all true education. Out of such homes usually come the men and women who make our citizenship pure and elevated, and the state and the nation long and enduring.

RELIGION

No man gets on so well in this world as he whose daily walk and conversation are clean and consistent, whose heart is pure, and

whose life is honorable. A religious spirit helps every man. It is at once a comfort and inspiration, and makes him stronger, wiser and better, in every relation of life. There is no substitute for it.

It has stood the test of centuries and has never failed to help and bless mankind.

The world has use for the young man who is well grounded in principle, who has reverence for truth and religion, and courageously follows their teachings.

The men who established this government had faith in God and sublimely trusted in Him. They besought His counsel and advice in every step in their progress. And so it has been ever since; American history abounds in instances of this trait of piety, this sincere reliance on a Higher Power in all great trials in our national affairs.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE

His intellectual and physical faculties were marvelous. He retained his mental faculties until the last. After he was eighty years old in the interest of his race and humanity he

will guard the sacred heritage forever and forevermore.

ON EXPOSITIONS

Expositions are the timekeepers of progress. They record the world's advancement. They stimulate the energy, enterprise and intellect of the people, and quicken human genius.

They go into the home. They broaden and brighten the daily life of the people. They open the mighty storehouses of information to the student. Every exposition, great or small, has helped to some onward step.

ON OUR MERCHANT MARINE

We must have more ships. They must be under the American flag, built and manned and owned by Americans. These will not be profitable in a commercial sense; they will be messengers of peace and amity wherever they go.

ON MANUFACTORIES

They bring coins for everybody who will work. Comfort and contentment for all deserving people.

CHAPTER XVII

Opinions of Noted Men

“ In his ambition and in his work, he was a man among men — living for others as he understood their needs.”—*A. T. Hadley, Yale University.*

“ He lived and he died nobly — always a sage and a soldier, and now a saint.”—*John Wanamaker.*

“ He loved his native land, and used his life to serve her larger growth in strength and fame.”—*S. W. Small.*

“ He was pure, simple, genial and kind.”—*Dr. Angell, Michigan University.*

“ He was a friend of education in every form.”—*N. R. Harper, Chicago University.*

“ The candidate of a party, he was the President of an entire people.”—*A. E. Stephenson, former Vice-President.*

“ His pilot stars were Truth and Loyalty.”—*John N. Griggs, ex-Attorney-General.*

“ He leaves an unblemished record in public and private life.”—*Sec. John D. Long.*

“All our people loved their dead President.”—*Grover Cleveland.*

“He held a position among the rulers of the world which no other of our Presidents filled.”—*Chauncey M. Depew.*

“By common consent, he honored the whole human race, and all the race will honor him.”—*J. B. Foraker.*

“He was a true man, honest, pure of morals, generous-minded, conscientious, religious.”—*Archbishop Ireland.*

“His domestic virtues were worthy of all praise.”—*Cardinal Gibbons.*

“He was gentle in spirit, and kind in word and deed.”—*W. J. Bryan.*

“He was sincere, plain and honest, just, benevolent and kind.”—*Rev. Dr. Manchester.*

“It is a beautiful thing that to the end of his life he bent reverently before that mother whose example and teaching and prayer had so fashioned his mind and all his aims.”—*Bishop Andrews.*

The late General John B. Gordon in his “Reminiscences of the Civil War” says of William McKinley that he possessed a peculiarly winning and magnetic presence, which *few* men have.

**President McKinley's
Favorite Hymns**

Nearer, My God, to Thee

Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee;
E'en tho' it be a cross
That raiseth me,
Still all my song shall be—
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer to Thee!

Tho' like a wanderer,
The sun gone down,
Darkness be over me,
My rest a stone,
Yet in my dreams I'd be
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear
Steps unto Heaven;
All that Thou sendest me,
In mercy given;
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer to Thee!

Then with my waking tho'ts
Bright with Thy praise,
Out of my stony griefs
Bethel I'll raise;
So by my woes to be
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer to Thee!

Or if, on joyful wing,
Cleaving the sky,
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,
Upward I fly,
Still all my song shall be
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer, my God, to Thee!
Nearer to Thee!

Lead, Kindly Light

Lead, kindly Light, amid th' encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead Thou me on.
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on.

I loved the garish day ; and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will ; remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone.

And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

In Memoriam—President McKinley

When we remember thee, our gracious friend —
'Tis not harsh sorrow, but a tend'rer woe
That binds thee to us, that makes the heart o'erflow
With fondest memories. With reverent
Heads we bowed to the inevitable end,
For Death, the conqueror, full well we know
Enters no tournament with cowardly blow.
Thou wast so full of life, yet Death did blend
The discord in the harmonies of life.
Our fruitless tears have bathed thy honored bier,
The couch of lowly sleep is thy abode ;
The goal is reached, the race is run, the strife,
The pilgrimage, so well begun, will cheer
Us onward, upward, on our rugged road.

Full bravely didst thou turn life's varied page ;
Thy sturdy truth and courage did not fail ;
Naught of the craven is there in thy trail,
But glorious victories our heritage.
Thy mighty spirit is eclipsed. No age
Can boast a nobler. None dare assail
Thy right to tribute, neither to curtail
By jot or tittle ; 'tis only thy just wage,
For thou wert fashioned in heroic mold ;
A master thou hast been to emulate,

A champion of honor and of worth,
Pure in thy purpose, vigorous and bold,
Strong in thy sorrow, thy chivalry innate —
Fulfilled has been the promise of thy birth.

Relentless fate sweeps on, the strongest fall —
But yesterday it seems we saw thy face
And watched thee, as thou stoodst in public place
And heard thy counsels wise, in justice hall.
To friends thou wert a friend, yet kind to all;
Thy adversary's lance in any race
Ne'er crossed thine own, but thou wouldst feel disgrace
If not the open that didst make him fall.
No prize could swerve thee from thy just intent —
A world's acclaim was counted nothing gained;
Sound to the core and sturdy wast thou made;
Girded, thou stood against the winds nor bent;
Proud of thy 'scutcheon, untarnished, and unstained,
Thy honor gained for thee exalted grade.

A common grief is ours, a common loss.
No more thy fiery eloquence will bring
Home to our hearts the truths from which they spring.
Time will assuage the grief, the bitter cross,
Our hearts by sorrow's fire refined from dross;
And though the wound be healed, the scar may sting,
Yet still the fragrance of thy life will cling
Sending benignant influence across.
The matchless dialogue, the flashing wit,
The will indomitable to maintain

The right in truth's just cause — beyond our ken
Just as the light a quenched star may transmit
For ages traveling downward, so may again
The light thou left shine on the paths of men.

O Friend! forever loved, forever dear!
When at thy side the Messenger Divine
Descended and low whispered, "Thou art mine,"
A sudden gloom fell on us and a fear.
We knew how we should miss thee, how severe
The cross would be; how our love didst entwine
Around thee, and then we knew the gain was thine,
And knowing felt resigned. Thou art not here!
From leaf to leaf the night-winds softly creep
Across thy bed and sing a requiem;
In sweet refrain the everlasting hills
Repeat, "He giveth his beloved sleep —
Thy faithful quest has earned a diadem,"
And "Peace" is echoed 'til the woodland fills.

—*Mary H. M. Schutt.*





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